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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 7 Aug. 1952

SUBJECT Conditions in Wonsan

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SOURCE

1. On 16 April 1952, one-half of the approximately ninety thousand persons living in Wonsan were refugees from the Yanggu (127-59, 38-06) (DT-1117), Inje (128-11, 38-04) (DT-2813), and Ch'orwon areas.
2. On 16 April one bushel of rice cost about 9,000 North Korean won in Wonsan.
3. In late April, flour was being rationed to residents of Kosong (128-19, 38-40) (DT-4180) and T'ongch'on (127-54, 38-54) (DU-0506). The chairman of the people's committee at Kojo-ri, T'ongch'on, stated that the Soviet Union had sent 50,000 tons of flour to North Korea. On 7 May all farmers who returned to Kosong for spring planting received two and eight-tenths kilograms of sorghum. County officials claimed that North Korean army units had agreed to a reduction in their ration of sorghum to permit its distribution to the farmers.
4. By 16 April, the extent of disease in the Wonsan area had decreased from the winter level. Government authorities were treating as many patients as possible without charge at an isolated hospital at Tangha-ri (127-23, 39-08) (CU-6032).
5. By 16 April, school attendance had greatly decreased. A few students received 1 or 2 hours of instruction each day in air raid shelters.
6. By 16 April, United Nations bombardment had destroyed most of the equipment in the Wonsan harbor. The welfare section of the Wonsan office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was requisitioning all fish caught by Wonsan fishermen. Each fisherman was being compelled to sign a pledge stating he realized that in the event he should attempt to flee to South Korea his family would be killed.

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7. On 16 April four Wonsan salt factories were operating on a limited basis.

25X1A 1. Comment. The unwillingness of persons who had been evacuated from the Wonsan area to return to Wonsan to aid in the spring planting was reported . 25X1A

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